

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1       1. A method for identifying content in a computer  
5       network, the method comprising:

      storing a plurality of predetermined categories in a  
      database;

10      categorizing a plurality of items corresponding to one or  
      more of the plurality of predetermined categories, by a  
      plurality of categorizers, respectively;

      selecting a category from the plurality of predetermined  
      categories;

15      selecting a categorizer from the plurality of  
      categorizers; and

      initiating a search for one or more items in the computer  
      network corresponding to the selected category and the  
      selected categorizer.

20      2. The method of claim 1, further comprising signing up  
      on a web site as an authorized user.

25      3. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying  
      results of the search on a display.

      4. The method of claim 3, further comprising ordering  
      the displayed search results based on a user selectable order.

30      5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
      categorizing comprises signing up on a website as a  
      categorizer and categorizing a plurality of items

corresponding to one or more of the plurality of predetermined categories.

5                     6. The method of claim 1, further comprising charging a fee for initiating the search for the one or more items.

10                  7. The method of claim 1, further comprising assigning points to a categorizer based on number of users who have searched an item categorized by the categorizer.

15                  8. The method of claim 7, further comprising compensating the categorizer based on the assigned points.

20                  9. The method of claim 7, further comprising positioning the categorizer on a favorable screen position of a display screen, based on the assigned points to the categorizer.

25                  10. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a list of categorizers on a display screen.

30                 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the list of categorizers displayed on the display screen is ordered based on one or more of a respective categorizer's overall popularity within the selected category, a respective categorizer's recent popularity within the selected category, a respective categorizer's overall popularity within a broader subject area than the selected category, a respective categorizer's recent popularity within a broader subject area

5           than the selected category, a respective categorizer's reliability within a user-specified subject area, and a  
respective categorizer's reliability within a broad subject area.

10          12. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of predetermined categories relates to music.

15          13. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of predetermined categories relates to movies.

20          14. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of predetermined categories relates to books.

25          15. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of predetermined categories relates to web pages.

25          16. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of predetermined categories relates to security or intelligence content.

30          17. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of predetermined categories relates to a product or a service.

35          18. The method of claim 17, wherein the product or the service is one or more of art, craft, wine, cheese, beer, plumbing, air conditioning, auto repair, haircutting, legal service, and medical service.

19. A method for categorizing an item to be searched by  
a user in a computer network, the method comprising:

5           accessing a web site by an authorized categorizer;  
            identifying the item to be categorized;  
            selecting a category from a plurality of predetermined  
            categories stored in a database accessible by the web site;

10          applying the selected category to the identified item;  
and

            storing the identified item and the applied category in  
the database.

15          20. The method of claim 19, further comprising signing  
up on a web site as an authorized user.

20          21. The method of claim 20, further comprising  
            selecting a category from a plurality of predetermined  
            categories;

            selecting a categorizer from a plurality of categorizers;  
and

25          initiating a search for an item in the computer network  
corresponding to the selected category and the selected  
categorizer.

30          22. The method of claim 21, further comprising  
displaying results of the search on a display.

35          23. The method of claim 22, further comprising ordering  
the displayed search results based on a user selectable order.

24. The method of claim 19, further comprising charging the categorizer a fee for categorizing the item.

5            25. The method of claim 21, further comprising assigning points to a second categorizer based on number of users who have searched an item categorized by the second categorizer.

10           26. The method of claim 25, further comprising  
compensating the second categorizer based on the assigned  
points.

15           27. The method of claim 25, further comprising  
positioning the second categorizer on a favorable screen  
position of a display screen, based on the assigned points to  
the second categorizer.

20           28. A system for identifying content in a computer  
network comprising:

means for storing a plurality of predetermined categories:

means for categorizing a plurality of items corresponding to one or more of the plurality of predetermined categories, by a plurality of categorizers, respectively;

means for selecting a category from the plurality of predetermined categories;

means for selecting a categorizer from the plurality of categorizers; and

means for initiating a search for one or more items in  
the computer network corresponding to the selected category  
5       and the selected categorizer.

29.      The system of claim 28, further comprising means for  
signing up on a web site as an authorized user.

10         30.     The system of claim 28, further comprising  
displaying results of the search on a display.

15         31.     The system of claim 30, further comprising means for  
ordering the displayed search results based on a user  
selectable order.

20         32.     The system of claim 28, wherein means for  
categorizing comprises means for signing up on a website as a  
categorizer and means for categorizing a plurality of items  
corresponding to one or more of the plurality of predetermined  
categories.

25         33.     The system of claim 28, further comprising means for  
charging a fee for initiating the search for the one or more  
items.

30         34.     The system of claim 28, further comprising means for  
assigning points to a categorizer based on number of users who  
have searched an item categorized by the categorizer.

35. The system of claim 34, further comprising means for compensating the categorizer based on the assigned points.

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36. The system of claim 28, further comprising means for positioning the categorizer on a favorable screen position of a display screen, based on the assigned points to the categorizer.

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37. The system of claim 28, wherein at least one of the plurality of predetermined categories relates to a product or a service.

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38. A system for categorizing an item to be searched by a user in a computer network comprising:

means for accessing a web site by an authorized categorizer;

20                   means for identifying the item to be categorized;

means for selecting a category from a plurality of predetermined categories stored in a database accessible by the web site;

25                   means for applying the selected category to the identified item; and

means for storing the identified item and the applied category in the database.

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39. The system of claim 38, further comprising means for signing up on a web site as an authorized user.

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40. The method of claim 39, further comprising  
means for selecting a category from a plurality of  
5 predetermined categories;

means for selecting a categorizer from a plurality of  
categorizers; and

means for initiating a search for an item in the computer  
network corresponding to the selected category and the  
10 selected categorizer.

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